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United States Department of State

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Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Senator Dodd:

I am writing in response to your letter of May 25, 1994 in which you enclose correspondence from Dean Richard Vengroff of the International Affairs Division of the University of Connecticut. I regret the delay in our reply. Mr. Vengroff wrote to express his outrage over financial solicitation being done by the Embassy of Rwanda in the United States.

We had written to Mr. Vengroff on May 25 in response to a letter which he sent to the Secretary of State on the same topic. We share Mr. Vengroff's outrage that the Embassy of Rwanda was soliciting financial contributions to an Embassy bank account in Washington, D.C. for the support of the Rwandan Army.

On May 27, Acting Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Edward Brynn convoked Rwandan Ambassador Uwimana to the Department of State and informed him that the Embassy's activities soliciting contributions for the Army to be made to a bank account in the U.S. were inconsistent with its status under international law. Ambassador Uwimana was also told that, taking into account the UN arms embargo on Rwanda and the serious allegations of human rights violations by the Rwandan armed forces, the Embassy's fund-raising activities were inconsistent with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Mr. Brynn demanded that the Embassy cease soliciting funds and close out the bank account used for this purpose. Ambassador Uwimana agreed to this request. To the best of our knowledge, no further fund-raising has taken place in the United States.

We hope that this information is useful to you in responding to Mr. Vengroff's inquiry. If my office can be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Wendy R. Sherman  
Assistant Secretary for  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned

The Honorable  
Christopher J. Dodd,  
United States Senate.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 14 OCT 2003 200203739

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